ON PAGE 109

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Washington's Ultimate Survivor Reminisces About Bureaucrats and Others He's Known



After 18 years under Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter, Joseph Laitin is out of government. But he remembers, does he ever remember.

Maestros with the Media

Angus Thuermer, former undercover agent and later CIA press-relations chief during the agency's darkest hours. It's not easy to denounce an agency whose press chief identifies himself as "a CIA spooksman."

Wrongly Abused

James R. Schlesinger, former Secretary of Energy and Defense, CIA director, and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. The most unfairly abused official since Harold Ickes, and that's going some. Mislabeled as a rightwing hawk, he's really a Republican moderate with a deep commitment to national security. He has had a superb track record in every job he's handled. The second-most-difficult boss I ever had.

Master Bureaucrats

Frank Carlucci, former deputy Budget director, deputy CIA chief, deputy HEW secretary, and ambassador to Portugal; now deputy secretary of Defense. He knows all the power levers, warm bodies, and skeletons in the bureaucracy.